

The Importance of Teaching About Different Relationships and Families in Primary Education

Quinton Primary School



Why Is It Important to Deliver an LGBT Inclusive Curriculum?

‘Pupils should be able to understand the world in which they are growing up, which means understanding that some people are LGBT, that this should be respected in British society, and that the law affords them and their relationships recognition and protections. Pupils growing up in families with LGBT members, or who are beginning to understand that they are or may be LGBT themselves, should feel that Relationships Education and RSE is relevant to them. Quinton school will make decisions about what is appropriate to teach on this subject and when, based on the age and development of our pupils and will involve the parent body in these decisions, informing them clearly and in a timely manner about what and how their pupils will be taught (Please see specific Year group pages for more information). The government believes that this is the right approach to teaching about LGBT, and as such, this is set out in the guidance and will be made clear to schools through communications and further support they receive to deliver these subjects.’

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England – Government Consultation Response, February 2019

With the recent news that Relationships Education is now compulsory in primary education settings, Quinton has considered what it will teach, how it will be delivered and how our Relationships Education curriculum will be LGBT+ inclusive. Ofsted will be expecting to see adequate Relationships Education provision for all children that reflects and represents British society, while promoting values such as courage, kindness and respect. Celebrating Diversity Teaching children about the wonderful differences among humans has always been considered an important message in education. Just as we want to encourage children to celebrate their many different talents, strengths, goals and dreams, we also aim to promote the celebration of diversity among cultures, religions and traditions. Celebrating diversity among family structures and relationships is exactly the same principal and a whole-school approach is vital.

An Inclusive Relationships Education 'Relationships' is one of the three core themes in PSHE and Citizenship Education and is best delivered in context as part of a high-quality, comprehensive PSHE scheme of work. In order to deliver a Relationships curriculum that meets the new requirements, schools need a trustworthy scheme that will deliver age-appropriate content. Schools will have flexibility in determining how they teach and deliver Relationships Education. However, all Relationships units of work used in schools should be inclusive and representative of relationships and family structures in modern Britain and should promote tolerance and acceptance, in line with British values. Ofsted fully support the notion that children should be taught about different families and relationships.

Involving the Whole-School Community

Quinton ensures that policies and documentation about our Relationships Education curriculum are readily available for anyone to view on the schools website. Information for parents and carers to use at home, is also available. When provided with clear information about what is being taught and how it is being delivered, we hope parents and carers feel comfortable with the school's intentions and its curriculum.

Representing the LGBT+ Community in the Wider Curriculum

To ensure children with LGBT+ family members, as well as those who are beginning to feel they themselves might be LGBT+, feel represented through the school environment and the curriculum, it is vital that all materials are LGBT+ inclusive. Stories, display materials and information about inspirational figures or historical figures may feature members of the LGBT+ community. Alongside specific lesson content, in which terminology can be explained and questions children may have can be addressed, this whole school inclusivity is crucial as it makes being LGBT+ less 'different'.